NUMB. CCCCXLII.

The SPECTATOR.

Scribimus Indocti Doctique------ Hor.

Monday, July 28. 1712.

I Do not know whether I enough explained my ſelf to the World, when I invited all Men to be aſſiſtant to me in this my Work of Speculation; for I have not yet acquainted my Readers, that beſides the Letters and valuable Hints I have from Time to Time received from my Correſpondents, I have by me ſeveral curious and extraordinary Papers ſent with a Deſign (as no one will doubt when they are publiſh'd) that they might be inſerted entire, and without any Alteration, by way of *Spectator*. I muſt acknowledge alſo, that I my ſelf being the firſt Projector of the Paper, thought I had a Right to make them my own, by dreſſing them in my own Stile, by leaving out what wou'd not appear like mine, and by adding whatever might be proper to adapt them to the Character and Genius of my Paper, with which it was almoſt impoſſible theſe cou'd exactly correſpond, it being certain that hardly two Men think alike, and therefore ſo many Men ſo many *Spectators*. Beſides, I muſt own my Weakneſs for Glory is ſuch, that if I conſulted that only, I might be ſo far ſway'd by it, as almoſt to wiſh that no one could write a *Spectator* beſides my ſelf; nor can I deny, but upon the firſt Peruſal of thoſe Papers, I felt ſome ſecret Inclinations of ill Will towards the Perſons who wrote them. This was the Impreſſion I had upon the firſt reading them; but upon a late Review (more for the Sake of Entertainment than Uſe) regarding them with another Eye than I had done at firſt, (for by converting them as well as I cou'd to my own Uſe, I thought I had utterly diſabled them from ever offending me again as *Spectators*) I found my ſelf mov'd by a Paſſion very different from that of Envy; ſenſibly touch'd with Pity, the ſofteſt and moſt generous of all Paſſions, when I reflected what a cruel Diſappointment the Neglect of thoſe Papers muſt needs have been to the Writers, who impatiently long'd to ſee them appear in Print, and who, no Doubt, triumph'd to themſelves in the Hopes of having a Share with me in the Applauſe of the Publick; a Pleaſure ſo great, that none but thoſe who have experienc'd it can have a Senſe of it. In this Manner of viewing thoſe Papers, I really found I had not done them Juſtice, there being ſomething ſo extremely natural and peculiarly good in ſome of them, that I will appeal to the World whether it was poſſible to alter a Word in them without doing them a manifeſt Hurt and Violence; and whether they can ever appear rightly, and as they ought, but in their own native Dreſs and Colours: And therefore I think I ſhou'd not only wrong them, but deprive the World of a conſiderable Satisfaction, ſhou'd I any longer delay the making them publick.

After I have publiſh'd a few of theſe *Spectators*, I doubt not but I ſhall find the Succeſs of them to equal, if not ſurpaſs, that of the beſt of my own. An Author ſhould take all Methods to humble himſelf in the Opinion he has of his own Performances. When theſe Papers appear to the World, I doubt not but they will be followed by many others; and I ſhall not repine, tho' I my ſelf ſhall have left me but very few Days to appear in Publick: But preferring the general Weal and Advantage to any Conſiderations of my ſelf, I am reſolv'd for the Future to publiſh any *Spectator* that deſerves it, entire, and without any Alteration; aſſuring the World (if there can be Need of it) that it is none of mine; and if the Authors think fit to ſubſcribe their Names, I will add them.

I think the beſt way of promoting this generous and uſeful Deſign, will be by giving out Subjects or Themes of all Kinds whatſoever, on which (with a Preamble of the extraordinary Benefit and Advantage that may accrue thereby to the Publick) I will invite all manner of Perſons, whether Scholars, Citizens, Courtiers, Gentlemen of the Town or Country, and all Beaux, Rakes, Smarts, Prudes, Coquets,

Coequets, Houſewives, and all Sorts of Wits, whether Male or Female, and however diſtinguiſh'd, whether they be True-Wits, Whole, or Half-Wits, or whether Arch, Dry, Natural, Acquir'd, Genuine, or Deprav'd Wits; and Perſons of all Sorts of Tempers and Complexions, whether the Severe, the Delightful, the Impertinent, the Agreeable, the Thoughtful, Buſy, or Careleſs; the Serene or Cloudy, Jovial or Melancholy, Untowardly or Eaſy; the Cold, Temperate, or Sanguine; and of what Manners or Diſpoſitions ſoever, whether the Ambitious or Humble-minded, the Proud or Pitiful, Ingenuous or Baſe-minded, Good or Ill-natur'd, Publick-ſpirited or Selfiſh; and under what Fortune or Circumſtance ſoever, whether the Contented or Miſerable, Happy or Unfortunate, High or Low, Rich or Poor (whether ſo thro' Want of Money, or Deſire of more) Healthy or Sickly, Marry'd or Single; nay, whether Tall or Short, Fat or Lean; and of what Trade, Occupation, Profeſſion, Station, Country, Faction, Party, Perſwaſion, Quality, Age or Condition ſoever, who have ever made Thinking a Part of their Buſineſs or Diverſion, and have any thing worthy to impart on theſe Subjects to the World, according to their ſeveral and reſpective Talents or Genius's, and as the Subject given out hits their Tempers, Humours, or Circumſtances, or may be made profitable to the Publick by their particular Knowledge or Experience in the Matter propos'd, to do their utmoſt on them by ſuch a Time; to the End they may receive the inexpreſſible and irreſiſtible Pleaſure of ſeeing their Eſſays allow'd of and reliſh'd by the reſt of Mankind.

I will not prepoſſeſs the Reader with too great Expectation of the extraordinary Advantages which muſt redound to the Publick by theſe Eſſays, when the different Thoughts and Obſervations of all Sorts of Perſons, according to their Quality, Age, Sex, Education, Profeſſions, Humours, Manners and Conditions, &c. ſhall be ſet out by themſelves in the cleareſt and moſt genuine Light, and as they themſelves wou'd wiſh to have them appear to the World.

The Theſis *propos'd for the preſent Exerciſe of the Adventurers to write* Spectators, *is* MONEY, *on which Subject all Perſons are deſired to ſend in their Thoughts within Ten Days after the Date hereof.*

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